

From: Graves, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:51 PM
To: R6 6WQ-SG;Lawrence, Rob;Hildebrandt, Kurt;Bates, William;Kobelski, Bruce
Subject: SMU seismologist: Researchers are hoping to locate Irving quakes, not find what's causing them

SMU seismologist: Researchers are hoping to locate Irving quakes, not find what's causing them



Robert Wilonsky Follow @RobertWilonsky Email rwilonsky@dallasnews.com

Published: January 6, 2015 11:58 am Dallas Morning News

We received a handful of reports this morning from Northwest Dallas and Irving residents insisting they felt — and heard — another quake this morning. So far, though, the U.S. Geological Survey says it hasn't found one. But sometimes, seismologists say, the smaller ones in North Texas are hard to find. After all, there aren't a lot of sensors in this part of the world. Not yet, anyway.

Irving did get an new seismometer yesterday, though, courtesy SMU, which has been asked to study the cluster of temblors rattling Irving in recent months — 17 since early September.

Researchers aren't saying where it was planted, though. In a statement sent to *The Dallas Morning News*, SMU seismologist Brian Stump, who's leading the study, says "the location of the Irving seismometer is not being made public to preserve the integrity of the data it collects." About as specific as Stump's willing to get is "in a building on the northeast side" of the city.

Despite the myriad theories concerning the quakes' origins — wastewater disposal from nearby hydraulic fracturing operations, the implosion of Texas Stadium, the ghost of Tom Landry — Stump wants to make one thing very, very clear: This new look-see at Irving's shake, rattling and gentle rolling isn't intended to identify the why, just the where.



(SMU)

This is what it looks like when SMU researchers install their seismometers.

“This latest installation provides a third source of data SMU can tap in helping to determine the location of the Irving-area earthquakes,” says a statement from Stump, the Albritton Chair of Geological Sciences in the Huffington Department of Earth Sciences in Dedman College. “The seismology team also can retrieve data from a University-controlled portable seismometer previously installed at a site south of DFW airport, as well as the seismometer permanently installed in the basement of Heroy Hall on the SMU campus. SMU’s interest in these Irving-area earthquakes is at this point focused on helping to identify their exact *location*. The University’s seismology team is not currently engaged in a larger study of the *cause* of the Irving quakes.”

But as noted last week, Stump will be among those briefing the Irving City Council on January 15, during which he will discuss the ongoing North Texas Earthquake Study.

“There has been a significant increase in earthquakes in the Fort Worth basin since October 2008,” says Stump. “It’s important to all of us to learn as much as we can about them.”